

Adhering to a right-to-die movement: analyzing a life course transition and an end-of-life anticipation in members aged 65 and older.

Right-to-die organizations fight for new end-of-life courses such as euthanasia or assisted suicide (EAS). People aged 65 and older, women and those with higher education and socioeconomic position are more likely to become a member. Nevertheless, the profiles and motivations of these members are largely unknown, especially in Switzerland. Regarding the enrolment, we know that it can occur at a specific biographical turning point, it can be in strong relationship with the values promoted by these organizations, and that when an individual becomes a member she or he is invited to express her or his advance directives.

The sociology of aging, especially researches on life course and disengagement (or “deprise”) can highlight the profiles and motivations of elderly members of right-to-die organizations. Using a life course approach, we’ll analyze the enrolment conditions, the shapes of membership and the end-of-life anticipation among members aged 65 and older of one main organization in Switzerland, EXIT Western Switzerland.

Keywords : Life course, end-of-life, transition, aging, right-to-die organizations.

Research team

Murielle Pott, main applicant, HESAV
Stefano Cavalli, other applicant, SUPSI
Laeticia Stauffer, research assistant,
HESAV
Sarah Lou Beltrami, research assistant,
SUPSI

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